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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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## DOI In The News

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### US Wildfire Costs Hit Record \$2.3 Billion; Season Isn't Over.

The [AP](#) (9/14) reports that "the U.S. government says it has already spent a record \$2.3 billion fighting wildfires this year, and 64 major fires are still burning in 10 states." The Forest Service "said Thursday it has spent more than \$2 billion, and the Interior Department says it has spent \$345 million." The article notes that "the previous record for combined federal firefighting costs was \$2.1 billion in 2015."

The [AP](#) (9/14, Daly, Elliott) reports that Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue "said the severe fire season means officials 'end up having to hoard all of the money that is intended for fire prevention, because we're afraid we're going to need it to actually fight fires.'" The Agriculture Department "has been asking Congress for years to change the way firefighting is funded so the Forest Service does not have to raid non-fire programs in bad years."

***Oregon Legislators Ask For More Drones To Fight Fires.*** The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (9/14) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Peter DeFazio have "asked federal officials what's being done to deploy more unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to fight wildfires raging throughout Oregon and the West." The letter from Wyden and DeFazio "seeking answers about using UAS as a firefighting tool comes in the wake of their meetings last weekend in Oregon with emergency responders battling wildfires around the state." In their letter to Michael Huerta, Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke, the lawmakers wrote, "These tragic yet foreseeable events make it necessary to explore all ways to better fight wildfires. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) have the potential to help this effort significantly."

### **Herbert: Zinke Signaled Grand-Staircase Should Be Shrunk.**

The [AP](#) (9/14, PRICE) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “said Thursday that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has signaled that he’s recommending President Donald Trump shrink Utah’s two-decade old Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.” Herbert “doesn’t specifically know what Zinke has recommended for the 1.9-million acre (7,700-square kilometer) area or Utah’s new Bears Ears National Monument, but the governor said at his monthly news conference, taped at KUED-TV Thursday, that Zinke felt former President Bill Clinton’s 1996 declaration of Grand Staircase-Escalante went too far.”

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/14, O'Donoghue) reports that Herbert said the Grand Staircase-Escalante “could be reduced to two or possibly three smaller monuments.” Herbert said, “You won’t find 1.9 million acres in the Grand Staircase-Escalante that need protection. It doesn’t mean that there aren’t Bureau of Land Management lands and BLM doesn’t manage, but to have the enhanced protection of the monument, I think, was overreach.”

Also reporting are [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/14, Winslow) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/14, O'Donoghue).

### **National Mining Association To Hold Conference At Trump International Hotel: Report.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/14, Phillips) reports that the National Mining Association will “hold a private conference at Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., next month.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is scheduled to speak at the event. He also spoke at an oil industry event at the hotel in March.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Intercept](#) (9/14, Fang, Surgey).

### **Darby Appointed To U.S. Interior Department Advisory Panel.**

The [San Angelo \(TX\) Standard-Times](#) (9/14) reports that Texas state Rep. Drew Darby “announced Thursday he has accepted an appointment to an advisory committee for the U.S. Department of Interior.” Darby “will be part of a group working with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on energy and mineral resource development on Indian and Federal lands, evaluating current and emerging issues.” Darby said, “It is my honor to accept an appointment from Secretary Zinke for the Royalty Policy Committee within President Trump’s administration. I will continue to fight for the best interests of Texas.”

### **2 Trump Advisers Slated For Conference.**

The [Williston \(ND\) Herald](#) (9/15) reports that two senior advisers to President Trump will attend the North Dakota Petroleum Council’s annual conference. Vincent DeVito, the counselor on energy policy for the Interior Department, and Stephen Moore, economist for the Heritage Foundation and a policy adviser to Trump, “join more than 20 other distinguished panelists and speakers that include business leaders, innovators, regulators and policy makers.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minot \(ND\) Daily News](#) (9/14).

### **Hualapai Colorado River Settlement Bill Reintroduced In U.S. Senate.**

[KNAU-FM](#) Flagstaff, AZ (9/14, Heinsius) reports that Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake have “reintroduced a bill that would settle claims by the Hualapai Tribe to the Colorado River.” The agreement “between the Hualapai, federal government and other water users would allocate 4,000 acre feet, or 1.3 billion gallons, per year to the tribe.” The tribe has “limited access to groundwater, and says the \$170 million project would benefit tourism and boost employment.” However, Interior Department officials “last year testified that the project’s costs would exceed estimates, and don’t justify the relatively small amount of water it would provide.”

*What Arizona Needs To Secure Our Water Future.* The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/14) editorializes that “with the kind of planning and foresight the state pioneered decades ago, Arizona can continue to have the water it needs for future prosperity and economic growth.” But “without a clear focus and willingness of diverse stakeholders to work for the greater good, Arizona could face water distribution and supply problems that make our state look risky to investors.” One key issue is the resolve tribal water rights. The paper says that the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act “helps move the state toward that certainty.”

### **Many Inspectors General Spots Vacant.**

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/14, Tapscott) reports that “a dozen top federal departments and agencies have gone without Inspectors General (IG) — the government’s front line of defense against waste and fraud — for more than two years on average, including the Department of Interior,

which has been without a permanent watchdog for 8.5 years, according to data compiled by the Project on Government Oversight.”

## **Bureau Of Indian Affairs**

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### **Tribal Agencies Cite Progress On Audit Issues, Senators Want To See More.**

The [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (9/14, Clair) reports that “leaders of federal agencies serving Indian Country told a Senate panel Wednesday they have made some progress on dozens of problems cited in Government Accountability Office audits, but lawmakers said much more needs to be done.” The GAO “put the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Services on its ‘high-risk’ list of government areas in need of major improvement after nearly a decade in which the agencies addressed just two of a total of 41 recommendations on ongoing problems.” Officials from the three agencies “told the Senate Indian Affairs Committee they have started to address the issues in the GAO report, reducing bureaucratic roadblocks and implementing improved technology.” However, “the GAO’s Melissa Emrey-Arras testified that the number of problems identified at the agencies has grown from 41 when the high-risk list was published in February to nearly 50 after the completion of two additional reports on safety and construction in tribal schools.”

### **Alaska Communities Request Land Be Put Into Federal Trust.**

The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that “two Alaska tribal communities are hoping to take advantage of a policy change that allows for land to be placed into federal trust.” The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Government for the village of Fort Yukon “submitted a request to place into trust a series of contiguous lots adding up to as much as 83,750 square feet (7,780 square meters).” Also, “the village of Ninilchik has requested to place 2.5 acres (10,100 square meters) into trust.”

### **Judge Trims Tribe's Suit Over Okla. Fracking Approvals.**

[Law360](#) (9/14, Rodriguez) reports that “an Oklahoma federal judge on Thursday trimmed a slew of claims from the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma’s lawsuit alleging the federal government approved oil and gas leases and fracking permits on the tribe’s land without properly considering their environmental impacts.” U.S. District Judge James Payne “granted the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management’s motion to dismiss the tribe’s claims relating to the lease approvals, but because the government did not address the permits in its motion, the claims related to those will proceed.”

### **Okla. Landowner Urges 10th Circ. To Revive Drill Permit Suit.**

[Law360](#) (9/14, Lidgett) reports that “an Oklahoma landowner on Wednesday urged the Tenth Circuit to reinstate his suit that claimed the Bureau of Indian Affairs granted an energy exploration company permission to drill on his land without first conducting a required environmental review, saying the lower court made various reversible errors.” Merrill Chance “filed an opening brief in his appeal of U.S. District Judge James H. Payne’s ruling that found Chance sued the BIA and the secretary of the interior almost two decades after the statute of limitations had passed.”

## **Bureau Of Land Management**

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### **BLM: Wyoming Working To Fulfill Trump Energy Agenda.**

The [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (9/14, Funk) reports that “with a very different energy agenda in the administration of President Donald Trump than his predecessor, the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming is ready to adapt to those changes,” according to Duane Spencer, BLM of Wyoming deputy state director for minerals and lands. Spencer “spoke Wednesday during the 2017 BLM Industry and Government Conference in Rawlins.” Spencer said, “We have been working very closely with our Washington (D.C.) office to bring them up to speed on what Wyoming is working on, what resources we offer, and that we believe BLM Wyoming is strategically positioned to deliver on what some of the administration’s priorities are – in particular, the goal of making America safe through energy independence and contributing to economic development and local economies.”

## **46 Wild Horses Caught From Piceance Herd.**

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/15, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Thursday "rounded up 46 wild horses as it began work on trying to remove up to 100 horses that have wandered outside the designated Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area." The BLM "said it expects the work to last less than a week." According to BLM spokesman David Boyd, "no horses were hurt or injured as a result of the operation."

## **Protests Over BLM Timber Sale.**

[KOBI-TV](#) Medford, OR (9/14, Jordan) reports that "an auction for logging rights to hundreds of acres of Bureau of Land Management property drew a crowd of protesters in Grants Pass." The BLM "says the land needs logging to prevent fires." But "protesters were concerned about the thinning of old growth trees."

## **Group Will Work With BLM To Repair Corral At Historic Ranch.**

The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (9/14) reports that Friends of the Owyhee will "work with the Bureau of Land Management to repair an old corral at the Birch Creek Historic Ranch on Sept. 22." The BLM will "supply all tools needed for the repair."

## **Company Submits Mine Plan.**

The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (9/14, Meyer) reports that Paramount Gold Nevada Corp. has "filed its mining plan of operation for its Grassy Mountain site with the Bureau of Land Management, which has launched its environmental review of the proposed mine."

## **What's Happening With Those Permits BLM?**

In an editorial, the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (9/14) says that the Bureau of Land Management has not been forthcoming about efforts "to speed up the onshore drilling permitting process." The paper says that the Trump Administration is "completely behind overhauling this bureaucratic, business-choking monstrosity of a permit process, which is why we're stunned that neither the Department of the Interior nor BLM has decided to take a call or email and tell our Energy magazine what they're up to."

## **Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management**

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### **Deep-Sea Study To Begin Off Southeast Coast.**

The [Coastal Review](#) (9/14) reports that "a team of scientists is set to launch in the coming weeks a four-and-a-half year study of deep-sea coral, canyon and gas-seep ecosystems in the mid- and south Atlantic." The team will "travel aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ship Pisces to explore biological features and geological processes, such as corals and naturally occurring gas seeps and the organisms that inhabit them." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA's Office of Exploration and Research are "supporting the study intended to shed light on little-known natural resources of the deep ocean off the Southeast coast."

### **Guest Editorial: S.C. Opposes Efforts To Expand Drilling And Testing.**

The [Aiken \(SC\) Standard](#) (9/14) publishes a guest editorial from The Sun News of Myrtle Beach, which says that "offshore oil drilling and exploration is overwhelmingly opposed along the U.S. Atlantic Coast, including off South Carolina, and the opposition has become increasingly bipartisan." The American Petroleum Institute "claims more production in the Atlantic, eastern Gulf of Mexico and the [Arctic] will strengthen national security, as well as create more domestic energy, jobs and government revenue. The fact is, the nation has more oil and natural gas than was imagined only a few years ago."

## **Bureau Of Reclamation**

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### **U.S. And Mexico Set To Sign Landmark Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.**

[USA Today](#) (9/14, James) reports that "the U.S. and Mexican governments are close to signing a landmark Colorado River deal that will establish rules for sharing water over the next decade and lay out cooperative efforts intended to head off severe shortages." Officials have "scheduled a

signing ceremony on Sept. 26 in Ciudad Juárez, officials at California water districts said this week." They said "that formal event will be followed by a ceremonial signing in Santa Fe, N.M., on Sept. 27 attended by representatives from the states involved."

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/14, Benson).

### **Editorial: Gov. Brown — Don't Demand A Decision On The Delta Tunnels.**

In an editorial, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/14) reports, urges water agencies to opposes the WaterFix project. The paper claims that the twin tunnels project is "environmentally destructive." Furthermore, "the project financing is in question."

### **Fitzgerald: Feds Sneak Money To Tunnels.**

In his column for the [Stockton \(CA\) Record](#) (9/14, Fitzgerald), Michael Fitzgerald notes that "federal auditors found mid-managers at the Bureau of Reclamation made \$50 million of our money in roundabout payments to water contractors and gave \$34.8 million (the number is variously reported) in water credits." He says that "the Bureau of Reclamation scandal shows again certain subservient officials enthusiastically put the public interest and the Delta's health second to pleasing special interests." For this reason, Fitzgerald asserts that the "tunnels won't work."

## **Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement**

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### **To Repeal Or Not To Repeal: Reviewing The US Well Control Rule.**

An analysis for [Offshore Technology](#) (9/14) discusses President Trump's "review of the Well Control Rule, which tightened requirements for blowout preventers on oil rigs as a result of failures found in the Deepwater Horizon explosion." Davies says, "The recent decision taken by Donald Trump to revise regulations implemented by Barack Obama did not come as much of a surprise. However, while Trump's attempts to repeal the likes of Obamacare have generated incalculable headlines in the mainstream media, the proposed rollback of offshore drilling rules has been met with less commotion." In the wake of Trump's announcement, "many groups, such as the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA), voiced their support for the move, arguing that the regulations were too costly to implement and ineffectual, in any case."

## **Fish And Wildlife Service**

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### **Environmental Groups Challenge Use Of Waivers To Build At Border.**

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (9/14, Moran) reports, "A coalition of environmental groups on Thursday sued the Department of Homeland Security challenging the use of sweeping power under a federal law to ignore environmental laws in order to build walls, fences and roads on the border." The lawsuit was filed in federal court in San Diego by Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund. The Union-Tribune says the lawsuit "targets a section of the REAL ID Act of 2005 which granted the Secretary of Homeland Security the power to waive complying with federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act in order to expedite border security building projects." The lawsuit "contends that the use of the law was limited to a certain time period after it was passed by Congress, and was not meant to be a perpetual tool the government can use to avoid laws." The [AP](#) (9/14) reports the lawsuit "largely mirrors a lawsuit filed by another advocacy group, the Center for Biological Diversity, but the three organizations each say they have hundreds of thousands of members, bringing more attention and resources to a legal fight over one of President Donald Trump's key campaign pledges."

### **New Video Shows Wild Jaguar Roaming In Southern Arizona.**

The [AP](#) (9/4) reports that "wildlife conservationists have released new video footage showing what is believed to be one of three jaguars to be seen in the United States in the past few years." The Center for Biological Diversity "released the video taken this summer on Thursday, saying the big cat was the same one first seen on camera in November 2016." Conservationists believe "the recent sightings are evidence that the jaguar is returning to the U.S."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/14, Davis).



## **Feds Kill Wolf That Was Preying On Livestock.**

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/15, Moss) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “recently killed an endangered Mexican gray wolf, a rarely used tactic for managing an animal the federal government is charged with protecting.” The Arizona Department of Game and Fish “said in a monthly report issued Thursday that a female wolf, a member of the Diamond Pack in Arizona, was ‘lethally removed’ last month following a series of confirmed livestock deaths.” John Bradley, a spokesman for the FWS, “said the female wolf and her pack were responsible for eight livestock deaths since January, a number he called excessive.”

## **Researchers Fear Worst For Vole After Wildfire Burns Habitat.**

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/14, Brean) reports that “researchers are assessing the damage after a wildfire near the California-Nevada border burned through critical habitat for one of North America’s most endangered rodents.” Janet Foley, a veterinary professor at the University of California, Davis, said the fire burned 10 to 20 percent of the remaining natural habitat for the Amargosa vole, a small, brown critter found nowhere else in the wild.” Foley “said a member of her research team is headed to Tecopa to examine the burned area and check the neighboring marshes for any recent arrivals.”

## **Science Supports Keeping Grizzlies Endangered Species Protections.**

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (9/14, Mattson), David Mattson, a researcher and teacher recently retired from the U.S. Geological Survey, claims that “some arguments for the removal of Endangered Species Act protections for Yellowstone’s grizzly bears have little to do with science and instead rely on innuendo and unsubstantiated assertion.” In particular, Mattson takes issue with Hoover Institution fellow Terry Anderson’s recent op-ed in The Hill. Mattson claims that “Anderson is not an expert on wildlife ecology, but rather has built a career promoting free-market capitalism.” Mattson asserts that “to secure the future of Yellowstone’s grizzlies, we need contiguous populations of thousands — not mere hundreds — of bears.”

## **National Park Service**

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### **National Park Service Uses Lasers to Battle Jefferson Memorial Grime.**

[WAMU-FM](#) Washington (9/14, Lefrak) reports that the “workers are using lasers” to battle “biofilm” at the Jefferson Memorial. Chicago-based Conservation of Sculpture and Object Studio, Inc. will “use a laser ablation treatment to clean a test area of 1,000 square feet on the northeast side of the memorial.” According to the article, “the test will be carried out over the next four weeks.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WRC-TV](#) Washington (9/14, McGrath).

### **Berkeley Gets Black Panther Tribute \$98K.**

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/14, Krayden) reports that the National Park Service is “giving \$98,000 to commemorate a violent student protest group: the Black Panther Party.” The NPS is “offering money to UC Berkeley so that it might ‘honor the legacy’ of the ‘60s-era organization that preached a communist revolution and upheld black nationalism.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (9/14, Harrington).

### **Campsite Raiding Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Captured, Killed.**

The [AP](#) (9/14) reports that “a grizzly bear that has been raiding backcountry campsites and chasing campers in Yellowstone National Park since last year has been captured and killed.” The National Park Service “says biologists killed the immature, male grizzly on Sept. 8 after their nonlethal attempts to alter its behavior failed.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/14, Wilson) and the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/14, Landers).

### **Mountain Goats In Olympic National Park: Their Days May Be Numbered.**

The [Seattle Times](#) (9/14, Bush) reports that “officials are nearing a decision on what to do with an overpopulation of mountain goats — some of which are aggressive — in Olympic National Park.” The National Park Service has “published four plans for goat management.” It is “accepting public comment on goat management through Sept. 26.”



### **Elevators Down At Carlsbad Caverns.**

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (9/14, Hedden) reports that the elevators at Carlsbad Caverns National Park are "closed again for maintenance." According to Valerie Gohlke, spokesperson for Carlsbad Caverns National Park, "workers are aiming to replace rusted structural steel on the secondary elevators, along with a traveling cable." Gohlke "said the park's \$4.7 million modernization plan for the elevators should reduce down times for maintenance."

### **Water Pipeline Breaks Again At Grand Canyon National Park.**

The [AP](#) (9/14) reports that "several locations within Grand Canyon National Park will be without water or on stored water until at least Monday while crews repair another pipeline break." Phantom Ranch will "be on stored water with standard water restrictions while Cottonwood Campground and Roaring Spring will be without water."

### **National Park Service Proposes Fee Increase At FDR Site.**

The [Kingston \(NY\) Daily Freeman](#) (9/14, Kemble) reports that "National Park Service representatives are taking comments on a proposed \$1 increase in the admission fee this January at the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site in Hyde Park." The hike was "discussed at a Rhinebeck Town Board meeting Tuesday evening." Site Superintendent Larry Turk "said the increase, to \$10, would only cover tours of the Roosevelt home." He said, "It would get us in line with the other historical homes around the local area. Right now we're less than they are, and we're just trying to ... bring in some revenue to help maintain the parks."

### **The 16-year Major Rehabilitation Of The Many Glacier Hotel In Glacier National Park Is Completed With The Unveiling Of The Helical Staircase.**

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/14, Dettmer) reports that "after 16 years of rehabilitation," the Many Glacier Hotel has "been restored to its original grandeur as the 'Gem of the West' in Glacier National Park." According to the article, "the multi-partner, multi-million dollar effort reached its completion this summer with the unveiling of the helical staircase, the final major rehabilitation project."

### **Beach Relocation Part Of Final Assateague Management Plan.**

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (9/14, Vaughn) reports that "an abbreviated version of the final general management plan for Assateague Island National Seashore has been posted on the National Park Service website." The article notes that "among the plan's elements is the relocation of the recreational beach on Assateague in Virginia about 1½ miles north of the existing beach area to a more stable part of the barrier island."

### **Mount Rainier National Park Releases Fish Management Plan.**

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (9/14) reports that the National Park Service has "prepared an environmental assessment that considers the implementation of a Fish Management Plan at Mount Rainier National Park." The objective of "the plan is to guide management of native and nonnative fish populations in the park, according to a news release."

### **Microburst Swamps, Sinks Powerboats, Jet Skis At Lake Powell.**

The [AP](#) (9/14) reports that "a sudden, powerful downward gust of wind swamped or sank dozens of powerboats and jet skis Thursday at Lake Powell along the Arizona-Utah border." According to authorities, "at least three people were injured with a 60-year-old woman suffering a severe arm injury that required amputation."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/14, Gundran).

### **Column: Time To Talk About Starved Rock Being A National Park.**

Columnist Tom Collins pens an open letter in the [Lasalle \(IL\) News Tribune](#) (9/14, Collins) to Rep. Adam Kinzinger, urging him "to draw up legislation or convene a task force to weigh the merits of designating Starved Rock State Park a national park." Collins notes that "the park has long enjoyed great popularity and its average yearly attendance puts it squarely in the company of the most popular units of the National Park Service." But "the state of Illinois, mired as it is in ongoing budget problems, has failed to provide the resources needed to properly maintain the tourist infrastructure." Collins asserts that "Starved Rock is every bit as worthy of joining these glories and enjoying the resources and protections available only through the U.S. Department of the Interior."

### North Korea Launches Missile Over Japan.

News Thursday evening that North Korea fired a missile towards Japan is generating significant media attention. Two of the three networks last night led with the story. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/14, lead story, 1:10, Muir) said Japanese television is "reporting the missile has passed over Japanese air space," and "several population centers have now been warned. This launch is yet another provocative move on the part of North Korea." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/14, lead story, 1:25, Holt) said the launch "comes weeks after North Korea claimed it tested a hydrogen bomb. King Jong-Un continuing to rapidly develop his nuclear and missile programs, defiant from the face of threats from President Trump." NBC's Ron Allen said the missile "flew some 1,700 miles, in the air for about 14 minutes. Interestingly, the Japanese nor the Americans decided to try to shoot this missile down."

Calling the latest launch "a direct challenge" to the US and China, the [New York Times](#) (9/14, Choe, Sanger) reports that the Administration "chose not to take out the missile on the launching pad, even though they saw it being fueled up a day ago." According to the Times, "neither the United States nor Japan tried to shoot down the missile, perhaps because it was clear moments after the launching that it was not aimed at land."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/14, story 4, 0:25, Mason) said it was not immediately "clear what type of missile" was fired, "or where it landed," but [USA Today](#) (9/14, Eversley, Maresca) reports Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono "said it appeared to be an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile based on its range, according to NHK." The White House said President Trump was briefed on the launch by Chief of Staff Kelly.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/14, Fifield, Lamothe) notes the launch marked "the second time in less than three weeks that North Korea sent a projectile over Japan." While the "details were still emerging," it "appeared similar to the previous launch, on Aug. 29" of an intermediate-range ballistic missile, and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14, Landers, Jun) reports South Korea's joint chiefs of staff said the missile was launched from a suburb of Pyongyang, the same site used for the Aug. 29 launch.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/14, Stiles) reports that in a "show of defense, South Korean military officials said they immediately retaliated by sending a missile of their own about 150 miles into the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan — the same distance as the base where the North Korean missile originated."

**Tillerson Presses China To Use Oil As Leverage.** The [AP](#) (9/14, Pennington) reports Secretary of State Tillerson on Thursday "urged China to use its leverage as North Korea's principal supplier of oil to press" Pyongyang "into reconsidering its development of nuclear weapons." Speaking to reporters in London, Tillerson said it was going to be "very difficult" to get China to consent to an oil embargo against of its neighbor, but he still urged China as a "great country and a world power" to use its leverage as its top oil supplier. "That is a very powerful tool and it has been used in the past," Tillerson said at a news conference. "We hope China will not reject that."

**Zakaria: North Korea Unlikely To Give Up Nuclear Weapons Program.** Fareed Zakaria writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/14) column that Kim Jong-Un is the world figure he would like to interview, and "because I am unlikely to get that interview, I have decided to imagine it instead." Zakaria writes that Kim would likely defend his nation's nuclear weapons program as a means of survival and vow never to give it up, because "it's all that is keeping us alive."

### Relief Supplies Flowing Into St. Maarten.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/14, story 3, 1:25, Muir), David Wright reported on the "devastation in St. Maarten...and the urgent effort to get people out." Wright said that while "relief supplies are flowing in," recovery "is going to take some time." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/14, story 5, 1:40, Holt) also reported on recovery efforts in the Caribbean.

### Angry Mapp Chastises Community For Unreal Expectations.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (9/13) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp "led off his nightly press conference on Wednesday with an angry condemnation directed at members of the community he said have unreal expectations about the recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Irma." On Wednesday, Mapp "first acknowledged the death of WAPA lineman Jason Julius before launching into a diatribe about the community's complaints about the progress of recovery efforts."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/14).

**WAPA Halts All Hurricane Restoration Work Territory-Wide Following Death Of Lineman On Tuesday.** The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) reports that “the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority confirmed on Tuesday night that one of its linemen died today, while working in the Sugar Estate area as part of a Wide Power Restoration Effort September 11, 2017” The lineman’s “death was the fifth confirmed fatality since Hurricane Irma struck on September 6.”

### **Mapp Acknowledges Police Fell Down On The Job On STJ.**

[St. Croix Source](#) (9/12, Kossler, Bogolub) reports that “police failed to do their jobs on parts of St. John in the first days after the storm, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said during his update on storm recovery efforts Tuesday evening.” Mapp said, “I understand tremendously the concern, particularly of folks on the eastern end of St. John and Coral Bay who are very concerned about the lack of a security presence in Coral Bay, particularly following the storm.” He continued, “There was some breakdown in the leadership in the early days following the storm at the VIPD and the commissioner, I and his chief had a conversation about that and I will leave that to the police commissioner to deal with those particular issues.”

### **U.S. Labor Department To Provide Immediate Grants And Assistance For Hurricane Irma Recovery Efforts.**

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/12) reports that “the U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and local partners, is setting aside funding and will be making grants to assess workforce needs in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Florida, and other states in response to Hurricane Irma, the U.S. D.O.L. announced today.”

### **Additional Reading.**

- *V.I. Port Authority Answers Questions About USVI Air And Seaports.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/13).
- *Help Pouring In To St. John.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/12, Roberts).
- *Plaskett Gives Update On Hurricane Aid.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/13, Plaskett).
- *The Damage On St. John Is Unimaginable; Hear The People’s Stories.* [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13).
- *STT-STJ Ferry Resumes Limited Service, Air Travel And Mail Coming Soon.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/13).
- *Neither Rain Nor Snow- But Hurricane Stopped The U.S. Mail In St. Thomas And St. John.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/13, Kossler).
- *SBA Offering Disaster Assistance Loans For Businesses, Homeowners And Renters In Wake Of Hurricane.* [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/14).
- *FEMA Encourages U. S. Virgin Island Residents To Register For Federal Assistance.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/14).
- *Dept. Of Health Reopens 4 Clinics On St. Thomas Post Hurricane Irma.* [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/14).
- *U.S. Virgin Islands Hurricane Irma.* [Yahoo! Finance](#) (9/14, Roche).

## **Office Of Surface Mining**

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### **Fund Health Study On Surface Mines.**

In an editorial, the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (9/15) calls on the Trump Administration to allow a “proposed \$1 million study on the health effects of living near a surface mine” to proceed. The paper says that “this could be an important study — and it is not one commissioned in an attempt to harm the coal industry.” According to the paper, “a scientific, objective study could balance claims by some environmental radicals that people living near any coal mine are at risk,” and “if not, we ought to know it.”

## **US Geological Survey**

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### **Hoeven, Industry Want Study Of North Dakota Oil Potential.**

The [AP](#) (9/14, Macpherson) reports North Dakota oil drillers and Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) “want

federal geologists to reevaluate the amount of recoverable crude oil in the state, saying a new assessment likely would show stronger production potential and attract investment." Hoeven "wants the USGS to take into account other formations in western North Dakota's oil patch that could be exploited using technology developed for the Bakken and the Three Forks directly below it." He is quoted saying, "The industry wants a broader study. ... The industry feels it will show a larger resource if the other formations are included."

### **Monroe County Water Study Launches Oct. 1.**

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (9/15, Alvey) reports that "under the leadership of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), various federal, state and local agencies will launch a major hydrogeological study in Monroe County on Oct. 1." The purpose of "the three-year, \$480,000 project is to develop hydrogeologic maps that can be used to manage the county's groundwater resources."

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Scientists Listen In On Volcano's Inner Workings.* [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/14, Pesanti).
- *Scientists Record Spattering At Kilauea Lava Lake.* [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (9/14).
- *You May Not Believe It, But The Number Of California Wildfires Has Been Going Down.* [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (9/14, Tedford).
- *Drought Spreads Across Three-quarters Of Washington, Half Of Oregon.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/14, Jenkins).
- *'We Should Have Been Here 10 Years Ago:' Army Corps Urged To Hasten Asian Carp Plan.* [MLive \(MI\)](#) (9/14, Ellison).
- *County Asks For Post-flood Study Of Big Wood River.* [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (9/14).
- *Irving Rattled By Second Earthquake In Less Than A Month.* [Dallas Morning News](#) (9/14, De Bruijn).
- *Magnitude 3.3 Earthquake Strikes Near East Foothills, California.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/15).
- *Second Earthquake This Week Shakes Kansas.* [Hays \(KS\) Post](#) (9/14).

## **Top National News**

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### **As Right Lashes Out, Trump Says DACA Deal Would Include "Massive Border Controls."**

Media coverage of the DACA talks between the President and Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer highlighted the seeming sense of anger and betrayal on the part of some on the right. The contours of the emerging agreement reportedly include a legislative fix to the DREAMers' legal status and beefed-up border security – but not a border wall. [The Hill](#) (9/14, Easley), for example, described Trump's supporters as "apoplectic and lashing out at 'Amnesty Don,'" the [New York Times](#) (9/14, Peters) says he "came under withering attack...from some of his strongest supporters, who were outraged and unforgiving," and the [Washington Post](#) (9/14, Costa) that his "staunch conservative allies...have erupted in anger and incredulity." Rep. Steve King "issued a dramatic warning to the president after he scrolled through news reports," declaring Trump's base "blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair." [Townhall](#) (9/14, Pavlich) noted that King told CNN, "The base will leave him. They can't support him anymore." Ann Coulter, meanwhile, [tweeted](#), "At this point, who doesn't want Trump impeached?" [USA Today](#) (9/14, Estepa) reports that she later added, "If we're not getting a wall, I'd prefer President Pence."

The President defended his actions yesterday, starting with three morning tweets. Trump [wrote](#), "No deal was made last night on DACA. Massive border security would have to be agreed to in exchange for consent. Would be subject to vote." He also [said](#) "the WALL, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences and walls, will continue to be built." Trump [added](#), "Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military? Really!....." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/14), "The President has been very clear in what his position is. He wants to get a deal done. He wants to do that with DACA, but also to include massive border security and interior enforcements. That's what he's tweeted this morning. That was the message he relayed last night."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/14, Mascaro, Bennett, Lauter) reports Trump further "defended

his negotiations with Democratic leaders on immigration" later yesterday, telling reporters en route to Florida, "We're working on a plan – subject to getting massive border controls. We're working on a plan for DACA." The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes) showed Trump saying, "There was no deal. They didn't say they had a deal." [Roll Call](#) (9/14, Bennett) noted that White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters also told reporters, "There was no deal made."

On the other hand, the [AP](#) (9/14, Werner, Colvin) quotes Trump as saying "he was 'fairly close' to a deal with congressional leaders." He added that "his promised wall along the US-Mexico border would 'come later,' but would need to happen soon." In fact, "after he landed in Florida, he declared repeatedly, 'If we don't have a wall, we're doing nothing.'" The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes) reported that later Thursday, Trump "was back to criticizing the Democrats about the wall," telling reporters, "If the Democrats aren't going to approve it, then we're not going to do what they want." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14, Meckler, Peterson) runs a similar story under the headline "Trump, Democrats Haggle On Contours Of A 'Dreamers' Deal,"

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/14, story 4, 2:25, Vega) showed Trump saying, "We're talking about taking care of people, people that were brought here, people that have done a good job and were not brought here of their own volition. ... We're not looking at citizenship, we're not looking at amnesty. We're looking at allowing people to stay here." [Breitbart](#) (9/14, Spiering) reported that "on Air Force One, however, a White House spokesperson confirmed that 'legal citizenship over a period of time' for DACA recipients would likely be part of a deal." Pelosi, moreover, "insisted that the plan would offer them a 'path to citizenship.'" [Politico](#) (9/14, Nussbaum), meanwhile, reports "the White House is against 'amnesty,' but won't say what that means," and [The Hill](#) (9/14, Fabian) described Trump as "trying to soothe his base, which is incensed."

Eamon Javers said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (9/14), "That's something that we haven't really seen much of in Washington since the Clinton Administration, but it looks like...Trump is trying a little triangulation here as well." The [Washington Times](#) (9/14, Dinan) reports, however, that the President also said yesterday that "GOP leaders in Congress are 'very much on board' the deal he's working with...Schumer and...Pelosi." The [Washington Post](#) (9/14, Viebeck, O'Keefe, Debonis) reports Speaker Ryan dismissed "the potential deal...as little more than a preliminary discussion," but also "agreed in broad terms with the president's goal of protecting hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants while postponing talk of a border wall but toughening US border security in other ways."

Sen. Bill Cassidy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/14), "The American people obviously want the border security. But if you look at polls, the American people want something done with DACA in a way which doesn't kick out a lot of kids who came here when they were young. So, I think the President is probably looking at the polls and realizes the sweet spot is to work out that compromise. So, I think that's what the President seems to be aiming for."

Sen. James Lankford was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/14) if he could support a deal with Democrats on Dreamers that does not include funding for a border wall. Lankford said, "I would actually. ... I've been clear for years with people that the Dream Act is not going to pass, but it doesn't solve the problem to ignore the issue on the kids that are on DACA. ... As far as the issue of not having a border wall, that doesn't surprise me, quite frankly. ... The Department of Homeland Security has yet to explain to the" Appropriations and Homeland Security committees "exactly what the wall would look like, where they would put it exactly, how it'd be constructed, the final cost of it. All of those things are still up in the air. Until they can resolve those things, we shouldn't have a border wall funding issue. ... We're not ready for that at this point. We are ready to be able to deal with DACA."

Rep. Ted Yoho said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14), "I don't think any deal's been cut. I think there was talks. You can't fix a problem if we don't talk about it, but I can tell you one thing is border security has to happen. Enforcement of laws has to happen before you'll see this go anywhere. But to talk about it and bring it out on the table I think is a winner for all of America."

Rep. Louie Gohmert said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/14), "I refuse to talk about legalizing anybody until that border is secure. There are places we have got to have a wall, we've got to secure it, and once that is done, then we'll talk about this other stuff."

[McClatchy](#) (9/14, Glueck) describes Trump as "hedging on a border wall" and "threatening to betray core campaign promises in the process," though "according to the GOP base, this is all the fault of the Republican-controlled Congress." Along those lines, Joe Scarborough, in the [Washington Post](#) (9/14), calls King's comments yesterday "a primal scream" and mocks "poor



Ann Coulter," but adds that "Hannity, Bannon and King are about to learn the same lesson that Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Hillary Clinton, Jeff Zucker, Mika Brzezinski and I discovered in 2016: With Trump, it is never over. His base will stick with him no matter what."

[Breitbart](#) (9/14, Poor) noted that Rush Limbaugh did not join the choir of conservative criticism of Trump. Instead he said, "I'm asking myself: Would Trump really do that? Is he that...? Fill in the blank. But a lot of people do think it, a lot of people did think it, and right there pushing that narrative is the Drive-By Media – and certain Republicans are helping that narrative be pushed."

Rep. Tim Ryan said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/14), "These are kids. These are kids who came here with family members. They did nothing wrong, and we are trying to solve a problem. Of course we want to talk about jobs, but this is an immediate crisis that, quite frankly, the President created. He could have handled this in a much better way of just saying, let's figure out if he wants to go through the legislative process to formalize this. We could have done that without all the drama. But here we are."

Rep. Adriano Espaillat said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (9/14) that the President "doesn't have to send it back to Congress. In fact, in Congress, we've got several pieces of legislation that takes care of the problem. We have the DREAM Act that is sponsored by Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a bipartisan piece of legislation that seems to have the provisions in it that would resolve this problem. ... All he needs to do is a hop, skip, and a jump to the Capitol. Let's roll up our sleeves and go over the provisions in the bill. Let's see what's good and what's bad and make sure we pass it."

**"Sources": House GOP Leaders Want Wall As Part Of DACA Deal.** [Politico](#) (9/14, Bade) reports that according to "sources close to leadership...House Republicans plan to ask Trump to push for the wall as part of any DACA fix."

**Meadows Tells Conservatives Not To Worry, Says Group "Working Very Closely" With White House.** [USA Today](#) (9/14, Collins) reports Rep. Mark Meadows, chairman of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus, "says conservatives should not be concerned about reports...Trump has struck an immigration deal with Democrats, because the Freedom Caucus is taking the lead in drafting the bill." Meadows "downplayed talk of a deal Thursday, because he said members of his caucus are working in conjunction with the White House to get conservative legislative proposals drafted." Meadows told USA Today, "We're working very closely with the administration and conservative members of Congress...on how to address this (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) issue."

In fact, [Politico](#) (9/14, Cheney, Hesson) says "many conservatives on Capitol Hill made clear this week that there is, in fact, a window for the president to win buy-in from the right for a deal that would protect some undocumented immigrants...in exchange for stepped-up immigration enforcement measures." According to "interviews with more than a dozen conservative lawmakers...many envision a deal much like the one Trump and Democratic leaders purportedly reached." Politico adds that "the real test will be what kind of border security measures Democrats are willing to stomach, and whether the right will insist on a border wall despite Trump's decision to put it off."

**Pelosi To Democratic Whips: "We Made A Deal To Make A Deal."** [Politico](#) (9/14, Schor, Caygle) reports that Pelosi told "House Democratic whips that despite 'some misunderstandings in the press about a deal, we made a deal to make a deal. We made a deal to go forward.'"

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/14), "My understanding, I wouldn't call it a deal. What I would say is a plan to get to a deal. I think it was very clear that the President understood and there was an agreement that the Dreamer Act would be the substance of whatever agreement is ultimately reached and also what was reached was that security, enhanced security at the border would be part of whatever program was ultimately agreed to."

**Pelosi: "I Do Trust The President Is Sincere."** [Reuters](#) (9/14) reports that Pelosi also said yesterday "she trusted...Trump's sincerity in working to protect so-called Dreamers." Pelosi told reporters, "When we're talking about this legislation to protect the Dreamers, yes I do trust that the president is sincere in understanding that the public supports that overwhelmingly, the public supports not sending these young people back."

**Schumer On Hot Mic: "He Likes Us" Or "Likes Me Anyway."** [Roll Call](#) (9/14, McKinless) reported that "the Senate chamber microphones picked up...Schumer commenting on his relationship with...Trump Thursday morning." Said Schumer, "He likes us. ... He likes me anyway." [Politico](#) (9/14, Nelson) says "it was not clear about whom Schumer was speaking."

**Sources: Trump Has Difficulty Speaking To McConnell, Has Better Rapport With Schumer And**



**Pelosi.** [Politico](#) (9/14, Bade, Dawsey) reports that "in recent weeks, Trump has complained in private that it's difficult to have any sort of relationship – or even make small talk – with...McConnell," and has "told staff that he finds...Ryan, whom he's dubbed a 'boy scout,' dry as well, but the two have some rapport." A "senior administration official" said "the only Republican in leadership with whom Trump has a personal connection is House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy." Politico adds that "by contrast, Trump can relate to Democratic leaders...Schumer and...Pelosi," and "wants to keep meeting with them." A "White House source" tells Politico, "Schumer just talks to him. You get Mitch and Paul in here, and they're trying to explain this or that, and there is no personal connection."

**Breitbart: "Amnesty Don" Number One Trend In DC On Twitter.** [Breitbart](#) (9/13, Binder) indicated, in fact, that "'Amnesty Don' peaked at the number one trend in Washington, D.C. on Twitter, the social media outlet the President is most known for using." [Breitbart](#) (9/14, Moons) also runs a series of pieces highly critical of Trump, including one titled "9 Family Members Of Americans Killed By Illegal Aliens Respond To Possible DACA Deal With Democrats."

Another [Breitbart](#) (9/14, Munro), titled "Trump Voters Throw MAGA Hats Into Twitter Bonfire," warns the President that "the hat-burning may presage a huge demoralization among Trump's loyal followers, and cause his support to drop down to the basement levels achieved by President George W. Bush when he pushed for an amnesty in 2006 and 2007."

**Hispanic Lawmakers, Immigration Activists Upset At Pelosi And Schumer.** [Politico](#) (9/14, Schor, Caygle) reports "Democratic leaders are facing fresh trouble with their left flank after cutting their latest deal with President Donald Trump to protect Dreamers." Politico adds that "Hispanic lawmakers were blindsided by the Wednesday night announcement from" Pelosi and Schumer "that they'd support legislation to help the nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants in exchange for an unspecified boost in border security," and "immigration activists were frustrated to see Democrats claim victory only days after calling for a stand-alone vote on a path to citizenship for Dreamers." Pelosi "sought to assuage her caucus' concerns Thursday morning."

**WPost, USA Today, WSJournal Among Those Defending Trump.** The [Washington Post](#) (9/14) editorializes that it "doesn't often agree with...Trump, but we're on board with his observation that most Americans oppose deportation for 'dreamers,'" and believe he is "right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend" DREAMers "the protections he is set to withdraw." Democrats "should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security." [USA Today](#) (9/14) editorializes on the "fierce backlash from conservatives, as well as opposition from the far left, where anything other than resistance to Trump is considered treasonous." Yet it also concludes that "assuming a deal gets done, it will provide something for both sides."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) urges Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/14), "The President said he is getting close to a deal to help those Dreamers, but he did warn talking to reporters on Air Force One he's going to have to start working with Democrats if he's not getting enough cooperation from Republicans, and that capped a day of confusion for the White House as the President was being contradicted by his aides and vice versa all day long on the subject of immigration."

Juan Williams said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/14), "Steve King, the Iowa congressman, said basically the President risks blowing up his base as this point. You think about that base...it's about 35, 40 percent. You think about the high retention of Republican support for the President. If that starts to deteriorate, if you get the Ann Coulter voices, the right wing talk radio voices pulling away from this President, that could crater what is not a high level of support for him in that base."

Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/14), "It would be a massive amnesty, maybe the biggest ever granted in American history. This is thrilling news for Democrats and for open borders advocates everywhere. In return for this concession, the President receives nothing, no reduction in overall immigration totals, no tightened restriction on foreign workers who take jobs from Americans, no E-Verify to prevent illegal immigrants from working under the table, no end to chain migration. The President isn't even getting a border wall, though he insisted he will somehow get one later, possibly."

**Hannity: Schumer And Pelosi Will "Stab The President In The Back."** Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/14) that Schumer and Pelosi are essentially claiming that "the Democrats get everything they want, they get DACA and the President doesn't get his wall. It is the one thing everybody needs to understand about Schumer and Pelosi. They don't like this President. They can't stand him. They want the President to fail and they certainly

don't have his best interests at heart or in mind. Schumer and Pelosi only care about scoring cheap political points because they want to gain seats in 2018. ... As soon as it doesn't serve them politically, I can promise you, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, they are going to turn around and stab the President in the back. That's a fact."





**NBC News Analysis: "No Formal Plan" To Build Border Wall, "Obstacles Piling Up."**  [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander) reported that "eight months into his presidency, there's no formal plan for building the kind of wall the President's been touting for two years. ... NBC has learned the study...Trump ordered in January on how to fully secure the border yet to be finalized." Moreover, "the obstacles are piling up," with "many construction firms fearing political retaliation are shying away from what typically would be a highly sought after and lucrative contract." Moreover, there is, NBC continued, "a wall of opposition" to "one of the President's top priorities."

### **Trump Meets With Irma Survivors, Praises Federal And State Response.**




The President visited Southwest Florida yesterday to meet with Hurricane Irma survivors. The trip sparked largely favorable coverage, particularly on Florida print outlets and local TV newscasts. Encapsulating the tone of the reporting across much of the media spectrum, Aaron Blake writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/14) that the visuals from the trip show "a guy who is actually pretty adept at pressing the flesh with not-necessarily-Trump-supporters and doing the small-talk thing. These are all good images for the White House." A number of reports, however, take a more critical tone when addressing Trump's encouragement to Gov. Rick Scott to challenge Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson in next year's elections. The [CBS Evening News](#)  (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans), for example, said Trump "couldn't resist injecting a little politics," the [AP](#) (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) that he "couldn't resist injecting a political flavor into his visit," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/14, Lee, McDonnell) that he "raised some eyebrows by injecting politics into Thursday's visit."

As the [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (9/14, Smith) notes, the President "thanked...Scott for his work, saying he's doing an 'incredible' job" and adding, "I hope this man right here, Rick Scott, runs for the Senate." Scott "returned the compliment, praising the president half a dozen times during his four-minute remarks for his support even while Irma was thousands of miles away." The [New York Times](#) (9/14, Sullivan) says "Scott's compliment was notable, as the federal government's response to hurricanes is regularly measured against its botched efforts after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in 2005." [Politico](#) (9/14, McCaskill) reports Scott "has publicly said he is weighing a Senate run, but he has insisted that he feels little pressure to make an early decision."

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/14, Stanley), meanwhile, reports that in Naples, Trump "handed out half-sandwiches and bananas with the first lady, vice president and...Scott," and "met with a handful of residents who sat waiting on front lawns of the mobile home community, with punched out windows, collapsed porches and wrecked carports." In Fort Myers, the President "thanked the Marines, Navy, Army, National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Administration and everyone who helped keep lives safe during the hurricane."

 [WTVJ-TV](#) Miami (9/14, 6:16 p.m. EDT) described the President as "consoler in chief, hugging and handshaking with folks clobbered by the fist of Hurricane Irma," and  [WFTX-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (9/14, 6:05 p.m. EDT) reported "people" say that "even though they've lost everything, they are encouraged by some personal attention from the White House."  [WTXL-TV](#) Tallahassee, FL (9/14, 6:03 p.m. EDT) showed Trump saying, "The job that everybody has done is incredible. I just want to thank everybody, the first responders. We've seen the devastation."  [WPEC-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (9/14, 5:09 p.m. ET), meanwhile, showed Vice President Pence saying, "We are with you today. We are going to be with you tomorrow, and we are going to be with you until Florida rebuilds bigger and better than ever before."

Upon his arrival in Florida, [USA Today](#) (9/14, Jackson) reports, Trump spoke "in front of a Coast Guard helicopter at Southwest Florida International Airport" to thank "first responders and other officials working to rescue stranded residents, restore utilities and ensure public safety – even thanking the media for keeping people informed."

Reporting on Trump's Naples stop, the [CBS Evening News](#)  (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans) showed a person in the crowd telling the President, "Where was Obama in the last hurricane? He was playing golf." Trump replied, "Was this a good vote?" The unidentified speaker responded, "Yes." Trump was shown saying, "He said best vote of his life." [ABC World News Tonight](#)  (9/14, story 5, 0:25, Muir), meanwhile, only mentioned that Trump was in Florida "surveying the damage from...Irma" as the preface of a report on the path of Hurricane Jose, and [NBC Nightly News](#)  (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander) did the same at the tail end of a story that concluded

Trump is struggling to fulfill his campaign promises.

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14) that Trump "did come face to face with some storm victims," and showed him saying, "We love the people of Florida. And they went through something I guess the likes that nobody's ever seen before. They've never seen a category like this coming. Because it came in really at a five. All you have to do is look what happened in the Keys. We love these people and we're going to be back and we're going to help and the job that everybody has done in terms of first responders and everybody has been incredible."

The [AP](#) (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) describes Trump as "brimming with enthusiasm for the state and federal response effort," and says he and the First Lady "encountered piles of broken siding and soggy furniture heaped on front porches, and residents who were happy to get a presidential visit." Said Trump, "We are there for you 100 percent. ... I'll be back here numerous times. This is a state that I know very well." [NPR](#) (9/14, Kelly) said that "the surrounding area was littered with downed trees and ripped-out signs; mobile homes were totaled; and tarps covered roofs, according to pool reports. Gas stations along the way advertised that they didn't have fuel."

The [New York Times](#) (9/14, Sullivan) similarly indicates that in his "third visit to storm-ravaged parts of the United States in the past few weeks after two major hurricanes," the President "again praised the federal government's performance," saying, "I think we're doing a good job in Florida." The [Washington Times](#) (9/14, Miller) notes he "commended" both Scott and the "fantastic" job FEMA "had done preparing and responding to the massive hurricane." [Reuters](#) (9/14, Oliphant) reports Trump also had praise for "first responders and local officials for their handling of the storm." Said Trump, "When you think of the incredible power of that storm, and while people unfortunately passed, it was such a small number. ... People thought thousands and thousands of people may have their lives ended and the number is a very small number, which is a great tribute to you." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14, Ballhaus) runs a similar report.

The [New York Post](#) (9/14, Steinbuch) reports that "before leaving the White House on Thursday morning, Trump said that 'historically there's never been anything like this.'" He added, "But the United States Coast Guard, FEMA, working along with Gov. Scott, they've really done an amazing job. ... We have the largest assemblage of human beings ever in one area for power, and rapidly it's being turned on."

A couple of reports focused on Trump's offhand comments yesterday. Under the headline "Donald Trump Really Can't Stop Talking About His Hands," [Vanity Fair](#) (9/14, Weaver) reported that "Trump has been traveling to the southern parts of the country to respond to the first natural disasters of his presidency, or in his case, to talk about himself." When "he prepared to put on a pair of latex gloves while helping with Harvey relief earlier this month, Trump claimed 'his hands were too big' for the gloves," and "in a clear move to recycle his bit, he said the same thing while helping with Irma relief in Florida on Thursday." [Business Insider](#) (9/14, Abadi) ran a similar report.

**Yoho Also Praises Recovery Effort.** Rep. Ted Yoho said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14) that his district is "recovering. There's a stellar effort by everybody on the ground and I'm happy to report that all six of the counties in District 3 of north-central Florida got individual assistance where people can qualify for \$33,000 of assistance, public assistance and hazard assistance." Yoho added, "We have got 21,000 MREs coming in later on today and 10,000 gallons of water. Power is being put up. The important thing is that the FEMA money is here to help alleviate hazard release, picking up trash and debris. We're happy with the progression and I think the greatest thing I saw was people coming together as Americans, as we always do in tough times like this to make a tough situation better."

**Trump To View Irma Relief Efforts In Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands.** [McClatchy](#) (9/14, Daugherty) reports that the President will visit Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands "to view Hurricane Irma relief efforts first hand," Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Thursday. Rosselló "has been in regular communication with the White House over the past week and said that White House officials have pledged to support Puerto Rico's needs." According to McClatchy, Puerto Rico "sustained an estimated \$1 billion in damage from Irma, up from an initial estimate of \$600 million," and that "will play a role when Congress discusses an Irma relief package, which will cost billions of dollars after Irma moved through the Keys and along Florida's Gulf Coast."

**Trump Dismisses Impact Of Climate Change On Hurricanes Harvey, Irma.** [The Hill](#) (9/14, Henry) reports that following his visit to Florida, Trump "dismissed the impact of climate change on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma," telling reporters on Air Force One, "We've had bigger storms," and "ignor[ing] a question about his views on climate change, according to reporters traveling with him."



Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14) that Trump said "he is not changing his mind on the issue," though "the scientific community believes that there is a very strong likelihood that there is a connection between climate change and...these violent storms that we're seeing not only here in the United States, but around the world. ... This remains a tough issue for this White House where you have the President of the United States essentially saying hasn't changed his mind on the issue of climate change. Apparently, he still believes it's a hoax, while officials inside the Administration agree climate change is happening. They just don't know what to do about it, and they don't know how to change the President's opinion on it."

### **By 211-198, House Approves Spending Bill Boosting Military Spending.**

The [AP](#) (9/14, Taylor) reports "the Republican-led House on Thursday passed a sweeping \$1.2 trillion spending bill that provides billions more dollars for the military while sparing medical research and popular community development programs from deep cuts sought by President Donald Trump." The 211-198 vote moved forward a "massive measure that wrapped the 12 annual spending bills into one in advance of the end of the budget year on Sept. 30."

*WSJournal Praises House Passage Of All 12 Spending Bills.* A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) editorial praises the House Republicans for passing all 12 individual spending bills for the first time since 2004 and argues that while the bills will face Democratic filibusters in the Senate, perhaps the House's responsible action will encourage the Senate to act.

### **Trump Dismisses Impact Of Climate Change On Hurricanes Harvey, Irma.**

[The Hill](#) (9/14, Henry) reports that following his visit Thursday to Florida to survey the damage from Hurricane Irma, President Trump "dismissed the impact of climate change on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma," telling reporters on Air Force One, "We've had bigger storms," and "ignor[ing] a question about his views on climate change, according to reporters traveling with him."

*NYTimes Analysis: Hurricanes May Be Changing GOP Thinking On Climate Change.* In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (9/14, Burns) reports that "an array of political leaders — including some members of Mr. Trump's party, along with emboldened Democrats and environmental activists — see the underlying dynamics of climate politics bending, as drastic weather events throw up practical challenges for red and blue states alike." Republican party strategists believe that to be safe, Republicans are "embracing proposals to mitigate certain effects of environmental change, while skirting debate about more drastic actions that experts see as essential." The Times continues, "That approach reached even the White House this week, with Thomas P. Bossert, Mr. Trump's Homeland Security adviser, declaring that the administration takes 'seriously the threat of climate change.' He added, somewhat vaguely, 'Not the cause of it, but the things that we observe.'"

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14) that Trump said "he is not changing his mind on the issue," though "the scientific community believes that there is a very strong likelihood that there is a connection between climate change and...these violent storms that we're seeing not only here in the United States, but around the world. ... This remains a tough issue for this White House where you have the President of the United States essentially saying he hasn't changed his mind on the issue of climate change. Apparently, he still believes it's a hoax, while officials inside the Administration agree climate change is happening. They just don't know what to do about it, and they don't know how to change the President's opinion on it."

[CNBC](#) (9/14) similarly reports, "Some see signs that the recent blitz of hurricanes is reshaping strategies in the Trump White House." After the flooding of Houston, "Bossert...said a new plan was being developed to insure federal money would not increase flood risks." In addition, as Irma weakened over Georgia on Monday, "Bossert used a White House briefing to offer more hints of an emerging climate resilience policy, while notably avoiding accepting climate change science: 'What President Trump is committed to is making sure that federal dollars aren't used to rebuild things that will be in harm's way later or that won't be hardened against the future predictable floods that we see. And that has to do with engineering analysis and changing conditions along eroding shorelines but also in inland water and flood-control projects.'"

Wenonah Hauter is executive director of the national advocacy organization Food & Water Watch, writes in a piece for [The Hill](#) (9/14, Wenonah Hauter —) that comments on climate change from Administration officials — like Bossert saying, "We continue to take seriously the climate change, not the cause of it, but the things that we observe" — are "no surprise: Trump has dismissed fossil fuel-driven climate change as a hoax, and stacked his administration with a who's-who of oil and gas industry backers." However, Hauter says, it's "clearer than ever that our climate has already been significantly altered by decades of fossil fuel carbon emissions. ... All we

need now is the public and political will to act.”

[Politico](#) (9/14, Caputo) reported that Florida Gov. Rick Scott “is again weathering criticism over global warming in the wake of Hurricane Irma, and won’t say if he believes man-made climate change is real.” Politico quoted Scott as saying this week, “Clearly our environment changes all the time, and whether that’s cycles we’re going through or whether that’s man-made, I wouldn’t be able to tell you which one it is. But I can tell you this: We ought to go solve problems. I know we have beach renourishment issues. I know we have flood-mitigation issues.” Politico added, “In not taking a position on climate change, Scott’s views and responses to questions about” the issue “have remained markedly steady for years.”

### **Administration May Replace Obama Climate Rule Rather Than Repeal It.**

[Politico](#) (9/14, Holden) reports that the Trump Administration is indicating that it may offer “its own replacement for former President Barack Obama’s landmark climate regulation — rather than just erasing it altogether.” Politico cites “a source close to the process” who said that the EPA “aims by early October to issue a proposal to undo Obama’s climate rule, along with a separate advance notice of its intent to consider a replacement.” Politico adds that while such a “mend-it-don’t-end-it” approach on Obama’s 2015 rule could appease power companies that say the EPA needs to impose some kind of climate regulation,” it “would run afoul of demands from some conservative activists, who have pressured EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to reject the idea that climate change is a problem requiring federal action.”

### **Green Groups Intend To Sue EPA For Blocking Methane Emissions Limit.**

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/13) reports that several environmental groups have already said they intend to sue the EPA for blocking implementation of Obama-era methane emission limits for the oil and gas industry. “EPA’s ongoing failure to control emissions from the vast majority of harmful pollution sources in the oil and gas industry violates the Clean Air Act,” the green groups said in the letter, which is dated Aug. 28.

## **Editorial Wrap-Up**

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### **New York Times.**

**“A Hypocritical Battle Over Blue Slips.”** The [New York Times](#) (9/15, Board) editorializes that “now that Republicans control both the White House and Congress, top party officials, including Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, are itching to eliminate the last remaining tool the minority party has to influence a president’s picks for the federal courts — the so-called blue slip.” The Times notes that “back in 2009, Mr. McConnell and the entire Republican Senate caucus — then in the minority — implored President Barack Obama to honor all blue slips.” The Times argues that “the blue slip is no longer the answer.”

### **Washington Post.**

**“Trump Dares To Dream Of A Deal.”** The [Washington Post](#) (9/14) editorializes that it “doesn’t often agree with...Trump, but we’re on board with his observation that most Americans oppose deportation for ‘dreamers,’” and believe he is “right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend” DREAMers “the protections he is set to withdraw.” Democrats “should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security.”

**“Kris Kobach Is The Real Fraud.”** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/14) writes that Kris Kobach’s recent claims of New Hampshire voter fraud have “no evidence” to back them and that an examination of the data Kobach references as proof shows that “more than two-thirds of 5,900 day-of-election registrants who had out-of-state driver’s licenses lived in college towns, indicating most were students voting perfectly legally.” The Post argues that the “real fraud is Mr. Kobach himself...who will torture any truth, distort any data and fudge any fact in service to his long-standing goal of suppressing votes, specifically those likely to favor Democrats.”

**“Israel’s Strike In Syria Should Be A Wake Up Call For Trump.”** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/14) writes Israel’s September 7 airstrike on an Iran-linked Syrian military facility highlighted the difference between US and Israeli interests in Syria, in light of President Trump’s statement the day of the strike that the US has “very little to do with Syria other than killing ISIS.” The Post argues that although the Administration still should preserve the Iranian nuclear deal, the US “should be taking its own steps to block the Iranian ‘entrenchment’ in Syria” about which Benjamin Netanyahu has spoken.



## Wall Street Journal.

***“One Last ObamaCare Try.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) concedes that Graham-Cassidy is not an ideal solution to the country’s healthcare problems, but concludes it does signify progress toward undoing the ACA. Moreover, the Journal warns Republicans that if they miss this opportunity to repeal Obamacare, their voters will remember in 2018.

***“The Return To Regular Order.”*** A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) editorial praises the House Republicans for passing all 12 individual spending bills for the first time since 2004 and argues that while the bills will face Democratic filibusters in the Senate, perhaps the House’s responsible action will encourage the Senate to act.

***“Trump’s Dreamer Dealing.”*** In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) urges President Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

## Big Picture

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### Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

#### ***Wall Street Journal:***

[GOP Pushes Back On “Dreamers” Deal Sought By Trump, Democrats](#)  
[Japan’s SoftBank Wants Big Chunk Of Uber, But At Steep Discount](#)  
[North Korea Fires Second Missile Over Japan In A Month](#)  
[Shortage Of Insurance Adjusters Could Stall Florida’s Recovery](#)

#### ***New York Times:***

[Trump’s Support For Law To Protect “Dreamers” Lifts Its Chances](#)  
[Immigration’s Sudden Re-Emergence Scrambles Republican Agenda](#)  
[Trump Humiliated Jeff Sessions After Mueller Appointment](#)  
[Trump Signals He Will Choose Approach On Iran That Preserves Nuclear Deal](#)  
[In Angela Merkel, German Women Find Symbol, But Not Savior](#)  
[Review: Reimagining “Peter Pan” For The Lipitor Demographic](#)

#### ***Washington Post:***

[“Dreamer” Deal Gains Cautious Support On Hill](#)  
[Antifa: Fascism Fighters Or Lawless Thrill-Seekers?](#)  
[Trump Tests Supporters With Immigration Moves](#)  
[In Flood-Weary Houston, A Call To Retreat](#)  
[N. Korea Fires 2nd Missile Over Japan In Under 3 Weeks](#)

#### ***Financial Times:***

[Merkel’s Duel With Schulz Masks A Growing Challenge](#)  
[Hawkish BoE Spurs Markets To Revise Rate Expectations](#)  
[Le Maire Calls For Eurozone To Seize Moment And See Off Populists](#)  
[Trump Under Fire Over “Dreamers” Deal With Democrats](#)

#### ***Washington Times:***

[Obamacare Costs Projected To Rise Faster Than Inflation In Next Decade As Enrollment Declines](#)  
[Dreamer Citizenship Rights Could Swell Immigrant Number To 1.5 Million](#)  
[Susan Rice Reveals Why She “Unmasked” Trump Campaign Staffers](#)  
[Trump Prods State Department To Stop Delaying Release Of Clinton Emails](#)  
[Kosovo’s Deep Love And Gratitude For America On Prominent Display Throughout Country](#)  
[Enrollments, Budgets Fall Short At Universities Known For “Social Justice Warfare”](#)

#### ***Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:***

**ABC:** North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; White House-DACA Deal; Hurricane Jose Tracking; Washington State-School Shooting; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; NYPD-Police Shooting Bodycam; Treasury Secretary-Gov Plane Use; Maryland-School Teacher Murdered; San Diego-Hepatitis Outbreak; Young Driver-Guardrail Crash; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Plane Overbooking-Compensated Woman.  
**CBS:** White House-DACA Deal; White House-Democrats Relations; Hurricane Irma-Trump Visit;



North Korea-Missile Test; Trump-Charlottesville Comment; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Relief Efforts; NYPD-Police Shooting Bodycam; Washington State-School Shooting; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Treasury Secretary-Gov Plane Use; Google-Gender Discrimination Lawsuit; Crayola-New Crayon Name; Selena Gomez-Kidney Transplant.

**NBC:** North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; White House-DACA Deal; White House-Campaign Promises; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Google-Gender Discrimination Lawsuit; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Selena Gomez-Kidney Transplant; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; Cartoonist Parent.

**Network TV At A Glance:**

Hurricane Irma – 14 minutes, 25 seconds

White House-DACA Deal – 10 minutes, 35 seconds

Equifax-Cyber Security Breach – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

North Korea-Missile Test – 3 minutes

**Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:**

**ABC:** North Korea-Missile Test; White House-DACA Deal; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; Wisconsin-Foxconn Facility; NBA News.

**CBS:** North Korea-Missile Test; White House-DACA Deal; Washington State-School Shooting; Dallas-Confederate Statue Removal.

**FOX:** North Korea-Missile Test; UC Berkeley-Conservative Speech; White House-DACA Deal; NBA News.

**NPR:** North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Washington State-School Shooting; Wall Street News.

## Washington Schedule

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### Today's Events In Washington.

**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks to members of the military at Joint Base Andrews.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

**US Senate:** No public schedule announced.

**US House:** House breaks for recess until September 25.

**Other:** 8:00 AM National Latina Symposium and Awards – Annual National Latina Symposium. Includes the Distinguished Military Service Awards Luncheon, honoring Latina military and civilian personnel 'who through their service have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organizations'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, and Department of Defense Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity Director Clarence Johnson \* Event is preceded by an invitation-only welcome reception Location: Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://nls.latinastyle.com/> <https://twitter.com/LATINASTyleMag>

National POW/MIA Recognition Day – National POW/MIA Recognition Day, with annual ceremony featuring members of each branch of military service held at the Pentagon, hosted by the secretary of defense \* Black-and-white flag honoring the nation's prisoners of war and those missing in action flies over White House, U.S. Capitol, Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, Selective Service System headquarters, World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, U.S. post offices, national cemeteries, and other locations \* Presidential Proclamation urges Americans to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities Location: TBD <http://www.defenselink.mil/> <https://twitter.com/DoDPOWMIA>

11-year-old boy helps cut White House lawn after writing President Trump – 11-year-old 'Frank from Falls Church, VA' visits the White House, working with the groundskeeping crew and helping cut the grass in the Rose Garden, having written President Donald Trump earlier this year offering to mow the lawn, for free, in order to 'show the nation what young people like me are ready for'. White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders read the letter out in the regular press briefing last month \* The reading followed widespread skepticism after Sanders had read out another letter in July from a nine-year-old that had had a President-Trump themed birthday party and wanted to be friends with the president. The White House even released a copy of the letter to media Location: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.whitehouse.gov/> <https://twitter.com/whitehouse>

## Last Laughs

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### Late Night Political Humor.

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Almost every weekend since [Donald Trump] was sworn in, he has personally flown to Florida to make sure there were no hurricanes there. Sometimes he even carries a golf club to fend them off."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "Hillary Clinton is promoting her new book. She told Anderson Cooper that a lot of people come up to her now to apologize for not voting. And when they do that, she says she doesn't forgive them. I guess she used all her forgiveness up on her husband."

**Jimmy Kimmel:** "White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked about Clinton's book. She said she thought it was sad, which is true. I mean, I don't want to spoil it for anyone who's planning to read it, but at the end of the book, Donald Trump becomes President."

**James Corden:** "So big news out of the White House last night, Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi had dinner with Donald Trump, and they said that they struck a deal regarding immigration and border security that might not even include the wall Trump keeps promising. At the dinner, Pelosi and Schumer had the chicken while Trump ate his words."

**James Corden:** "Trump supporters were really angry today that it looks like he was making deals with the Democrats and abandoning the border wall. They said that Trump never betrays anyone, aside from Sean Spicer, Anthony Scaramucci, Reince Priebus, Steve Bannon, his two ex-wives, and that one daughter he never talks about."

**James Corden:** "Trump did try to reassure his supporters by tweeting this. He said the wall, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences, will continue to be built. Now I'm sorry, you cannot fix an existing wall and then say that you built a wall. That is not how it works. That is like taking \$14 million from your father and saying you are a self-made businessman."

**Trevor Noah:** "One deal, now he's Mr. Bipartisan? Okay, you can't call someone a philanthropist because they tossed a quarter at a homeless person. Doesn't work that way."

**Trevor Noah:** "Let's talk for a minute about the Twitter. It's a wonderful invention, but we have learned that if you ever tweet something that offends too many people, you could get fired from your job, or you could become President."

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Trump went on Twitter to criticize Hillary's new book. So she responded by saying she'd send him a copy of her children's book instead. Trump was like, 'Got anything shorter?'"

**Jimmy Fallon:** "Meanwhile, Ivanka Trump said that she doesn't speak out against her dad publicly because when you're part of a team, you're part of a team. I think what she meant to say was, 'When you're part of a will, you're part of a will.'"

**Seth Meyers:** "In an interview with CNN yesterday, Hillary Clinton said that the electoral college needs to be eliminated. 'Same with regular college,' said Betsy DeVos."

**Seth Meyers:** "So the big, beautiful wall that would be paid for by Mexico and begins construction on day one is now an old existing fence that will be paid for later because we all remember those famous chants from Trump rallies. 'What do we want?' 'To renovate old and existing fences.' 'And when do we want it?' 'A little bit later than now!'"

**Seth Meyers:** "That's right. Donald Trump is a party of one. Although, usually you hear that phrase associated with Eric Trump. 'Eric, party of one.'"

**Conan O'Brien:** "President Trump now says he wants the wealthy to pay more taxes and he

wants undocumented minors to be allowed to stay in the country. That's what he said. Then this morning, Trump accused himself of being born in Kenya."

**Conan O'Brien:** "Trump supporters are angry, outraged over President's recent reversals on immigration. Trump supporters are very upset. This is the first time they've ever been this angry at a white male."

**Conan O'Brien:** "President Trump was very busy all night last night tweeting about Hillary Clinton. As a result, Melania Trump spent all this morning thanking Hillary Clinton."

**Conan O'Brien:** "Facebook is under fire because during last year's election, Facebook sold lots of ad space to Russia. Facebook said the problem has been fixed. Now they're selling that ad space to a really nice lady named ISIS."

**Conan O'Brien:** "The US government has announced a deal to sell 18 fighter jets to Canada. Those jets will help Canada protect itself from its most hated enemy, bad manners."

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